



**MEMBERS:**

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council  
 FROM: Marc Daily, Executive Director  
 DATE: May 27, 2022  
 SUBJECT: Update on I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater

**PURPOSE**

To update Council on progress related to the I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) priority.

**Summary:**

- Addressing issues of congestion, flood risk, and habitat degradation related to I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater has been a top Council transportation priority for years.
- Since 2017, the Washington Legislature has invested over \$80M to address this stretch of I-5.
- In March 2022, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) issued the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) report for I-5 Mounts Road to Tumwater. The PEL report can be accessed at: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/I-5-study-tumwater-mounts-rd-PEL.pdf>.
- WSDOT has selected a contractor for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the project and intends to begin the formal scoping process by the end of the year. NEPA review is scheduled for completion in 2025.
- The State Legislature passed the Move Ahead Washington transportation package during the 2022 legislative session, which includes \$75M for this project.
- TRPC, the Thurston Shared Legislative Partnership, and the South Sound Military and Communities Partnership are currently working to clarify the legislative intent for the \$75M.
- The partners will discuss with legislators that \$19M is needed to construct the roundabouts near Yelm, \$1.5M to conduct preliminary engineering for Part Time Shoulder Use on southbound I-5 from Sleater-Kinney to Henderson Boulevard, and the remaining \$54.5M for preliminary engineering of the Nisqually Delta segment (Mounts Road to Marvin Road). These funds would be used following completion of the NEPA review.
- WSDOT estimates that an additional \$50M will be needed to complete the preliminary engineering.
- Council will be briefed on the timing of NEPA review and the opportunity for TRPC members to provide input during NEPA scoping to help ensure that members' issues and interests are considered in the assessment.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

None. Informational update for discussion.

md:vt



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EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

How has equity been considered in this agenda item?

The I-5 corridor and alternative routes are critical for moving people, goods, and services for all residents of the Thurston Region and beyond. In TRPC's support of this work, we have consistently suggested evaluation of multi-modal options including transit and transportation demand management. Ensuring consideration of all transportation modes will help in achieving equitable transportation outcomes, as underserved residents rely on modes like transit proportionally more than other population segments. Additionally, improving mobility on highway 507, an alternate route to I-5, helps to ensure geographic equity in providing mobility benefits.